



Perry Township Schools Newsletter

September 2019



Save the Date: Sept. 28 is Family Fit Fest

Please join us on Saturday, September 28 at Southport High School for our newly reimagined PTEF Family Fit Fest, featuring the Coach Hathaway 10K, 5K and 1-mile run! It's the same race you've come to know and love over the years, but it has a new look, new name, and expanded offerings for kids d families:

- Fitness circuit led by district PE teachers, including an obstacle course, soccer goal contest, and 40-yard dash
- Discovery Zone for small children with hula hoops and giant stacking cups
- Health & Community Fair
- 1/4-mile Kiddie Romp with school mascots
- Food, music, and more!

To volunteer or participate, [sign up here](#).



Leadership Academy

Perry Township Schools is proud to launch its inaugural Leadership Academy. The first class of participants gathered at the Education Center on Monday, August 12. The Leadership Academy is an engaging, yearlong learning experience for community leaders and parents to gain a deeper understanding of our district.

During the first meeting Superintendent Pat Mapes introduced the administration team, along with principals from each school. Each participant briefly described his or her connection with Perry Township Schools and what motivated them to participate in the Academy. Over the next school year, administrators will provide Academy participants with a transparent look into each area of running a district including academics, finance, operations, transportation and more.

To learn more about the Academy, [click here](#).



Educator Excellence

Perry Township Schools is a shining example of educator effectiveness, recognized nationally as well as locally. In recognition of the proven success we have achieved in professional development and student academic growth, the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) asked our district to host a roundtable discussion to mentor other districts throughout the state.

Led in discussion by NIET Chairman and Founder Lowell Milken and CEO Candice McQueen, educators reflected on what it means to prioritize a strong focus on instruction. Following the roundtable discussion, NIET leaders visited Southport High where they met students and watched our excellent educators in action.

With the support of NIET, we are able to continue our focus of empowering students to grow academically, socially, and behaviorally.



Fun at the State Fair

Perry Meridian High and Southport High scholars were among 200 students who spent time at the Indiana State Fair to learn about careers in agriculture. The visit was part of Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch's Diversity in Agriculture Day program, which allowed students to learn about the industry and explore different career options.

The students started their day touring several locations around the fairgrounds including the Indiana FFA Pavilion, Normandy Barn, Animal Town, Agriculture/Horticulture building and the Department of Natural Resources building. At each stop, they were met by agricultural representatives, who covered different topics ranging from food production to animal care to entrepreneurship.



PMHS Athletes Honored by Special Olympics

Perry Meridian High School is among 14 Indiana schools to receive Special Olympics North America's national banner recognition. The schools are being honored for their efforts to engage students with and without intellectual disabilities in inclusive activities during the 2018-19 school year.

Students participated in the organization's Unified Champion Schools and Champions Together programs and are being recognized for meeting national standards of excellence in the areas of inclusion, advocacy, and respect.

The Unified Champion Schools program was designed to empower students to become change agents by encouraging special education and general education students to partner to promote social inclusion. [Click here](#) for more information.



Hair Bow Friday

Students and staff at Abraham Lincoln Elementary put their heads together to support a classmate. Every Friday, Emily Wampler's class wears bows to show support for third grade classmate Lilliana Dennis, who is fighting cancer at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

Lilliana loves nothing more than a fancy bow to accessorize her school wardrobe! So friends and staff have decided to wear their favorite bows every Friday until Lilliana is well enough to return school.

Since the start of the school year, Hair Bow Friday has spread like wildfire! Clinton Young, Rosa Parks, RISE Learning Center, and district social workers are rocking bows on Fridays to send some extra love and support Lilliana's way!



Thanks to the Indiana Fever for Supporting Our Schools!

The Indiana Fever invited students and families from Homecroft, Southport, and Henry Burkhart Elementary Schools to watch the team play against the Atlanta Dream, Las Vegas Aces, and the Connecticut Sun respectively. The Fever generously gifted each school 100 tickets to experience the action on the hardwood. They also provided vouchers for free snacks!

Students experienced the excitement of a professional basketball game, watched themselves on the jumbotron, and rubbed elbows with mascot Freddy Fever!

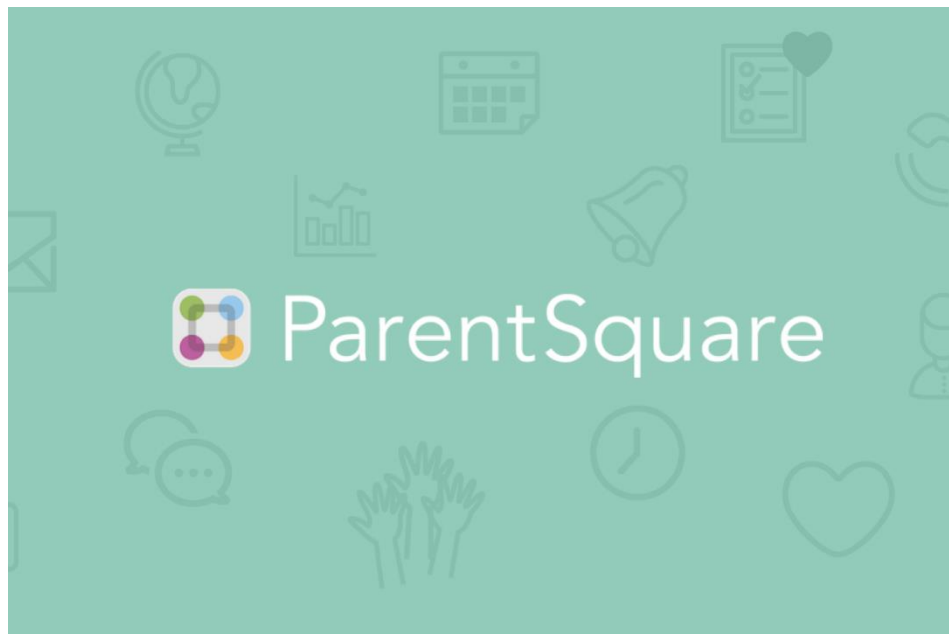
Our partnership with the Fever allows us to grow students socially, as well as academically.



Congratulations, Mr. Hendrick!

The Indiana Department of Education named STEM teacher Craig Hendrick a “Top 30” finalist for Teacher of the Year.

The Perry Meridian 6th Grade Academy teacher will be recognized for all of his professional accomplishments on Friday, November 15, during a special luncheon in downtown Indianapolis.



Stay Connected with Parent Square!

ParentSquare is the newest communication tool designed to keep families informed. By providing your email and phone number, you will receive the following information from teachers and principals:

- Weather cancellation/delays
- Emergency notifications
- General announcements

With ParentSquare, you can receive notifications via the ParentSquare smartphone app, text message, email, phone or a combination of these.

[Stay Connected With ParentSquare](#)



PMHS Students Featured in 2019 Colts Video

Students from the Perry Meridian High School Percussion Ensemble were asked to participate in the 2019 Indianapolis Colts season opening video!

Check it out [here](#) and see if you can spot some of our talented Falcons!



Girls Who Code

Southport High School students Molly Barrett and Savannah Hale are gaining momentum on their new student club, Girls Who Code. Barrett, who wanted to gather students with similar interests in coding, created the club to gain new skills, explore coding opportunities and collaborate with other students.

This year, the club has almost doubled the number of student participation. It has also partnered with Renaissance Electronic Services, based out of Indianapolis, to learn more about the professional workplace for women in programming.

Click [here](#) to read more about the club in the Southport Journal.



Teacher Spotlight

Joann Ahmay from Henry Burkhart Elementary is our featured teacher for the Perry Township Staff Spotlight!

Click [here](#) to learn what's on Ms. Ahmay's playlist.



- **September 13** – SHS Homecoming Parade & Community Festival
- **September 14** – SHS Homecoming Game
- **September 20** – PMHS Homecoming Parade & Game
- **September 28** – Family Fit Fest
- **October 7-18** – Fall Break/Intersession
- **October 21** – Students Return